

85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect 70% of such cases. The implementation of RNTCP in Delhi has shown good results with a new smear positive case detection rate of 68/lac and a treatment rate of about 80%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

News-item captioned, "AIIMS, Delhi choking on slow poison in atmosphere"

3996. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIIMS, Delhi choking on slow poison in atmosphere", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 21st March, 2001; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to save the people of the Capital exposed to poison through the air, water and food, as pointed out by experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The contents of the news-item are general opinion based on the brochure circulated for the National Workshop and Conference on poison control which was held at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on 30-31st March, 2001. The specific steps taken by the Government to control pollution in Delhi include the following:

- (i) The Government has formulated a Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.
- (ii) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to find out the impact of pollution.
- (iii) A status Paper on pollution in Delhi with an Action-Plan

for its control has been prepared and the same is under implementation.

- (iv) The ambient air quality of Delhi is monitored through a network of monitoring stations under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme.
- (v) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.
- (vi) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (vii) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesel has also been reduced.
- (viii) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Vehicles Rules 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.

Agreement with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

3997. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for the development of an India-specific vaccine;

(b) if so, what are the main features of this agreement;

(c) to what extent this vaccine could be developed in India; and

(d) by when this vaccine will be available to check AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Indian Council of Medical Research has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), New York, USA. Under the terms of Memorandum of